REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-12 and 14-22 will be pending in the application.

Claim 13 was previously canceled.

Claim 1 is amended to recite a preferred embodiment "wherein the molecular weight of the radiation-curing compound is 1,000 or less".

New Claim 21 is directed to the preferred embodiment wherein the molecular weight of the radiation-curing compound of Claim 8 is from 200-600.

New Claim 22 specifies preferred difunctional compounds of Claim 8.

Support for the amendment can be found, for example, at page 7, lines 9-19 of the specification as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested, along with reconsideration and review of the claims on the merits.

Claims 1-19[1] are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over Inaba et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,074,724) in view of Nishimatsu (U.S. Pat No. 4,596,747), for the reasons of record.

Regarding the new Claims 14-19[1], the Examiner states that the limitations for Claims 14-19 are found in Inaba et al. and Nishimatsu.

Applicants respond as follows.

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[1] In the Final Office Action, the Examiner notes that Claims 1-12 and 14-20 are rejected on the Office Action Summary. However, the Examiner appears to have inadvertently included Claim 13 in the rejection. Applicants request clarification in the next Office Action.

Further to the remarks presented in the Amendment filed on April 6, 2005, Applicants amend the claims in order to further distinguish over the combination of the cited references.

Applicants amend Claim 1 by reciting a preferred range of the molecular weight of the radiation-curing compound of 1,000 or less.

When the molecular weight of the radiation-curing compound is in a range of 1,000 or less, the low molecular-weight radiation-curing compound is very advantageous in its high leveling and surface smoothness, as disclosed at page 7, lines 9-11 of the specification. These advantageous properties are not taught or suggested by any prior art, alone or in combination.

Nishimatsu teaches that two or more radiation curable oligomers or polymers are preferably used in combination (see column 3, lines 36-52). That is, Nishimatsu's primer coating layer is formed by a radiation curable coating material composed essentially of at least *one oligomer or polymer* containing at least one radiation curable unsaturated double bond per molecule and curing the coating by radiation (emphasis added; see column 3, lines 13-28). Nishimatsu discloses in column 3 the use of "oligomers or polymers containing at least one radiation curable unsaturated double bond per molecule." Thus, Nishimatsu teaches away from the use of low molecular weight compounds in the present invention, because low molecular weight monomers are known to create an industrial problem. That is, Nishimatsu teaches that low molecular weight monomers may be used only in combination with a resin component, namely an oligomer or polymer (see column 3, line 29-64). In fact, Examples 1-4 of Nishimatsu's four resins are used alone or in combination, and none of Nishimatsu's Examples uses a monomer range curable compound alone.

Nishimatsu's Example 1: resin (a)

Nishimatsu's Example 2: resins (a) and (b)

Nishimatsu's Example 3: resin (c)

Nishimatsu's Example 4: resins (b) and (e)

Nishimatsu's Resin (a) has a molecular weight of 19,200 and Resin (e) has the lowest molecular weight of 2,000. Thus, the present invention's radiation-curing compound having a molecular weight of 1,000 or less is at least half of the closest embodiment (Examples 1-4) of Nishimatsu.

The present inventors have discovered that using a low molecular weight compound as presently claimed is preferable in view of leveling the surface of the support and of increasing its smoothness (see Applicants' monomer ranged Compounds A-D in Examples 1-12 at Table 2 on pages 30-31). Again, neither the claimed subject matter, nor the significant benefits following therefrom, are suggested by the art.

Thus, as the Examiner concedes that Inaba fails to teach details of the adhesive layer, including at least Applicants' claimed low molecular weight compounds, the combination of Inaba with Nishimatsu fails to render obvious the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

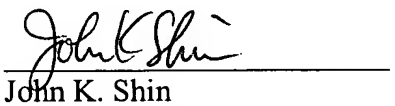
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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